



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 19 2008

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Dr. James F. Allan, PhD
Ocean Drilling Program
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Allan:

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Science Foundation's final programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program - U.S. Implementing Organization (IODP-USIO).

The proposed action would consist of riserless drilling activities aboard the Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel (SODV), also referred to as the *JOIDES Resolution*, which will serve as the state-of-the-art riserless drilling research platform for the science community as well as the United States' contribution to the scientific mission of the IODP.

EPA believes that this EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts of this project. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed actions as discussed in this final EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this final EIS. The staff contact for this review is Aimee Hessert (202-564-0993).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Bromm", is positioned above the printed name.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities